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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

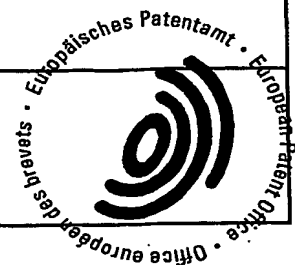
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

(Rationalised Report according to the Notice of the President of the EPO published in the OJ11/2001)

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|---|---|---|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference 03NPCT004 | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) </div> | |
| International application No. PCT/JP03/12389 | International filing date (day/month/year) 29/09/2003 | Priority date (day/month/year) 07/08/2003 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G01N21/956 | | |
| Applicant NEC ELECTRONICS CORPORATION et al. | | |

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| <p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>2</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consists of a total of _____ sheets.</p> <p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p> </div> |
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| Date of submission of the demand 29/09/2003 | Date of completion of this report 02/03/2005 |
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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/JP03/12389

I. Basis of the report

The basis of this international preliminary examination is the application as originally filed.

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability

In light of the documents cited in the international search report, it is considered that the invention as defined in the claims meets the criteria mentioned in Article 33 (1) PCT, i.e. it appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step and to be industrially applicable.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/JP 03/12389

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01N21/956 G12B21/02 G12B21/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G12B G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 11, 6 November 2002 (2002-11-06) -& JP 2002 214112 A (FUJI XEROX CO LTD), 31 July 2002 (2002-07-31) cited in the application abstract; figure 1 | 1-7 |
| A | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 07, 3 July 2002 (2002-07-03) -& JP 2002 076076 A (SONY CORP), 15 March 2002 (2002-03-15) abstract; figures 1-6 | 1-7 |
| -/-- | | |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or, which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 December 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

28/12/2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/JP 03/12389

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A | US 6 198 300 B1 (DOEZEMA LAMBERT A ET AL) 6 March 2001 (2001-03-06) figures 3,6,7 column 8, line 39 - column 12, line 34 | 4,6 |
| A | EP 0 309 236 A (CANON KK) 29 March 1989 (1989-03-29) figure 21 page 19, line 11 - line 36 | 1-7 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/JP 03/12389

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
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| | | JP 2071439 A | 12-03-1990 |
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